



Mobilizing for Children

February 9, 2011

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Executive Director

Human Services Committee

Room 200 Legislative Office Building

Hartford, CT 06106

RE: Public Hearing on 2/10/2011 on House Bill 6218

Dear Senator Musto, Representative Tercyak and members of the Human Services Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition, an alliance of 80 organizations, parents and concerned individuals who are committed to improving the well-being of children and families through research, advocacy, and community education. **As currently drafted, BCAC does not support HB 6218, "An Act Establishing A Task Force On Safety Net Services."**

As proposed, this bill would establish a task force to develop proposals to improve mechanisms for accessing basic safety net services, including programs related to public health, food assistance and childcare, while also improving family welfare programs, like the temporary family assistance program and the Jobs First program. We applaud the concept, however BCAC will not support creation or formation of a task force that does not include representation from program participants and human service advocates along with state employees. Including the voices and experiences from people who deal with the issues on a local level is beneficial to ensuring that safety net services continue to meet the needs of individuals and families in Connecticut.

We encourage the committee to amend the proposed language to include representation from advocates, state employees and program participants.

Please include this letter into the public testimony on HB 6218.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Mary Pat C. Healy'.

Mary Pat Healy
Executive Director

Cc: Subira Gordon, Clerk for Human Services Committee